

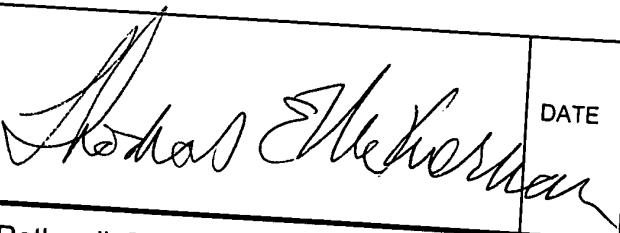
included case of a search for two immobilized binding agents, and thus a search for one will entail no more effort than a search for two.

Finally, neither of the two class/subclass combinations in which the Office Action asserts relevant references are likely to be found make any distinction based on a number of immobilized binding agents. For example, the class definition for Group I is:

Class 435, subclass 4. Measuring or testing process involving enzymes or microorganisms; composition or test strip therefore; processes of forming such composition or test strip: processes in which there is a direct or indirect qualitative or quantitative measurement or test of a material which contains an enzyme or microorganism or processes in which a material containing an enzyme or microorganism is used to perform a qualitative or quantitative measurement or test and compositions therefor and the processes of making such compositions.

And for Group II: Class 436, subclass 518. Preservative, buffer, anticoagulant or diluent: compositions which are added to a sample for a chemical test which compositions serve to prevent deterioration of the sample, stabilize the pH, prevent the sample from coagulating, or increase the volume of the sample.

It is submitted to be readily apparent from a review of those class definitions that no distinction is made based on the number of immobilized binding agents. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement, and substantive examination of all of claims 1 through 10 and 19 through 27 together, is earnestly solicited.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
NAME AND REG. NUMBER	Thomas E. McKiernan, Registration No. 37,889				
SIGNATURE			DATE	January 7, 2003	
Address	Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck 1425 K Street, N.W., Suite 800				
City	Washington	State	D.C.	Zip Code	20005
Country	U.S.A.	Telephone	202-783- 6040	Fax	202-783- 6031
143A.RR2					